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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

13 - 17 February 1978

Meeting held in Zürich, Switzerland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Zürich, Switzerland
13-17 February 1978

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The meeting convened at 9 a.m.

Opening worship was led by the Moderator, worship at subsequent sessions being led by Dr Kang, Metropolitan Emilianos, Miss Webb and Dr McCloud. His Holiness Karekin II conducted the closing act of worship.

On Sunday, 12 February, a number of Executive Committee members preached in parishes in Zürich.

On the evening of Tuesday, 14 February, participants in the meeting were the guests of the authorities of the Canton and City of Zürich and the Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of Zürich at a reception and dinner in Zürich. On the following evening members took part in a public meeting in St Peter's Church, Zürich.

Dr Sigrist conveyed greetings from the Swiss Protestant Church Federation. He said that the Federation was facing many of the same problems as the WCC, particularly in the fields of economics and human rights, though sometimes its answers were different. He expressed his joy in participating in this planning session of the World Council of Churches.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending, presenting apologies from Dr Visser 't Hooft, Prof. Miguez-Bonino, Metropolitan Nikodim, Dr Simatupang, Metropolitan Chrysostomos and Mr Gatu. It was agreed to send greetings to the Honorary President and the absent Presidents. It was agreed that Metropolitan Emilianos would represent Metropolitan Chrysostomos, but without the right to vote.

The Moderator welcomed all participants, particularly the representatives of the Church of Zürich which had made arrangements for the Committee to meet at the training centre of Boldern. He also expressed appreciation to the General Secretary and staff for carrying on in very difficult circumstances the work assigned to them by the Assembly and Central Committee.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, 25-27 July 1977, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda

The General Secretary presented the agenda, which was adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by expressing the pleasure of the Executive Committee at being in the ecumenical centre of Boldern and the possibility of contacts with the Church of Zürich.

I. Review of work

Dr Potter reviewed the work undertaken since August in the light of the four major programme thrusts agreed by the Central Committee in 1976.

a. The expression and communication of our faith in the Triune God:

The General Secretary referred to the work of a number of sub-units in this area of concentration. Faith and Order had continued its study on "Giving account of the hope that is within us" and had discussed "How does the Church teach authoritatively today?". Church and Society was preparing for the 1979 World Conference on Faith, Science and the Future, with a strong emphasis on faith. The Chiang Mai meeting had been a milestone in discovering what dialogue means for Christians in understanding their faith and in relation to other faiths. The Programme on Theological Education had taken the missionary motive as the major principle for ministerial formation. CWME was preparing a paper on "Mission and evangelism" for the next Central Committee and planning for its Commission meeting in 1980 on the theme "Your Kingdom Come". The Central Committee's letter to the churches on "The Confessing Community" had been widely used. There had been an Orthodox meeting in Prague on "The Bible and the Liturgy as part of the expression of the faith". There had also been a team visit to the Netherlands concerning mission in that country. The Programme to Combat Racism

had been involved in a Black Theology project in the USA in August on how we express our faith in the midst of social injustice. In December staff had attended a consultation in Ghana of African and other theologians. The Christian Medical Commission had looked at the expression of the faith in terms of the caring and healing community. The Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development had tried to learn from the whole history of "the Church and the poor" and a book has been produced. The whole work of Bossey was concerned with the expression and communication of the faith.

b. <u>The search for a just, participatory and sustainable society</u>:

The meeting of the Advisory Group in December had helped to bring the issues into clearer focus. Cooperation and interaction between different units and sub-units was not always easy but was immensely valuable. Dr Potter referred particularly to the contribution of several programmes in Unit III, in addition to those more obviously active in this area.

c. <u>Unity of the Church and its relation to the unity of humankind</u>:

Faith and Order had major responsibility for this thrust and special attention would be given at the meeting of its Commission in Bangalore in August 1978 to the issues arising from the Nairobi report on "What unity requires". In addition, an ecumenical intercession calendar was being produced; a Forum on Bilateral Conversations would be held in April; and the study on "The community of women and men in the Church" had been launched. Work on the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources and the Ecumenical Sharing of Personnel raised fundamental questions about what unity requires. The Orthodox consultation in Finland had produced a paper on the ecumenical nature of the Orthodox witness.

d. <u>Ecumenical education and renewal in the search for true community</u>:

Unit III had been giving a great deal of attention to the equipping of people for service and witness, with emphasis on the local church and community and the renewal of congregational life. Concern for ecumenical education was being revived and a paper will soon be produced for wide discussion. There had been several Orthodox consultations in this field. A study guide on "The lifestyle of congregations in mission" had been produced. CCPD had also worked on new life styles. The Sub-Unit on Dialogue was concerned with the spiritual life in each place, and Bossey aimed at equipping people for life in worship, witness and service.

The General Secretary asked how preparations should be made for reporting to the next Central Committee on the work done in these areas of concentration. It was agreed to refer the question to the Staffing and Nominations Committee.

II. Events on regional and national levels

The General Secretary referred to the Central Committee's desire that there should be more intensive participation in the WCC by Christian churches and communities around the world, and by the WCC in these bodies. Reports showed how widespread are these activities. A number of important meetings had taken place in Eastern Europe, including the Orthodox meeting in Prague, the Faith and Order consultation in Odessa, and a CCPD meeting in the German Democratic Republic. In December theologians from Eastern Europe had met in Geneva to consider their contribution to the discussion on "Giving account of the hope that is within us". Meetings planned included a consultation on the life and witness of the handicapped, and the Working Committee of Church and Society, both in the GDR, and the CCPD Commission in Sofia.

The Caribbean Conference of Churches had held its 2nd Assembly in Guyana in November 1977, on the theme "Working together with Christ". The General Secretary, Dr Barrow and Mr Meyer had been fraternal delegates. One of the major concerns was human rights throughout the area and Dr Potter was the main speaker on this burning subject. He commented that in the Assembly Roman Catholics and Protestants acted as one people and lay (especially women and youth) and clerical delegates participated equally. Prayer, music and political discussion had mingled naturally. Following the Assembly, the General Secretary had visited churches in Cuba, and had a two-hour conversation with President Fidel Castro particularly on the relations of church and state on which he had made an encouraging public statement in October 1977. In November a staff team had met in Lima with representatives of the Latin American member churches to discuss their participation in the ecumenical movement and the involvement of the WCC in their life; their relationship with the various ecumenical organizations in Latin America, and the creation of an instrument of ecumenical cooperation in that continent. The churches will meet in Mexico in September to consider the possibility of creating a Conference of Churches. The meeting had addressed a letter to the Roman Catholic bishops of Latin America and the member churches, and had appealed for relations with the Orthodox churches in the area.

There had been many visits and meetings in Canada and the USA. The General Secretary had spent three weeks in Canada where he had given the Gallagher Lectures. A consultation for the leaders of Christian lay centres

had been held in Naramata. The World Conference of Church and Society would be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, USA, on 12-24 July 1979.

The All Africa Conference of Churches had been under heavy attack because of its prophetic stance on many African problems. Its General Committee had met early in February 1978 to reconsider its functions and its member churches had made a new commitment to work with the regional body. Bishop Tutu, the new General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, had visited Geneva to discuss WCC relationships with the churches in Southern Africa.

In the Middle East the WCC had been involved in the reconstruction programme in Lebanon and the question of migrant workers. The Officers hoped to meet in Beirut in May as the guests of His Holiness Karekin II.

III. Other world ecumenical bodies

Two meetings had been held with the General Secretaries of other world ecumenical bodies in Geneva (World Alliance of YMCAs, World YWCA, WSCF) to discuss on-going relations in view of the emphasis in all the bodies on how Christians should live and act in each place. In many countries there was a challenge to the effective existence of Christian organizations and military governments were concerned to capture the allegiance of youth and women. The organizations felt they were not acting sufficiently together and needed to share more information about their activities.

IV. Public issues

Turning to a number of public issues, the General Secretary said that Africa, particularly Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa, had dominated our concern. The PCR had tried to inform its constituency about events and the new legislation in South Africa to control all forms of welfare agencies and to force all Africans into pseudo-citizenship of Bantustans through a background document, "South Africa's Hope - What Price Now?" We had also been following closely events in the Middle East. Bishop Samuel had asked if the Council could be represented at the peace talks in Cairo. This was not considered opportune, but copies of WCC statements on the Middle East and Jerusalem had been sent. Discussions would shortly be held with leaders of the Christian Council of Israel on the new legislation in that country regarding Christian witness, which could be considered to infringe religious liberty.

V. Finance and administration

Finally the General Secretary referred to problems of finance and administration. He felt relieved that Mr Kenworthy would soon join the staff and expressed his

thanks to Dr Brash for having so devotedly carried on the work under very difficult circumstances. The new financial procedures had been implemented from the beginning of the year and we were now able to look at the whole situation far more rationally than in the past. On the total estimated income of Sfr. 30 million, exchange losses would be at least Sfr. 4 million and we had had to consider a 12½% cut on all budgets. As a consequence it was felt that we should not proceed with the building of a new wing without further discussion in the Executive Committee. The question of the location of the headquarters had also been raised once more. There were many reasons for working in Geneva but in addition to the financial situation the WCC faced a number of other problems. Swiss regulations regarding foreigners made it difficult to recruit non-Swiss administrative and secretarial staff. The number of Swiss staff in these categories had risen from 41 in 1974 to 78 (i.e. 48%) in 1978 and the number was increasing by 5-10% annually. Dr Potter asked: Can an international ecumenical body operate without an international ecumenical staff at all levels? It was also difficult if not impossible for wives of staff members to obtain work permits and this also created problems in the recruitment of staff. Furthermore, how could a body which is increasingly concerned to identify with the poor reside in one of the most affluent countries in Europe? Dr Potter hoped that the Executive, through its Finance Sub-Committee, would provide some guidance on what could be done in approaches to the Government compatible with the independent character of the WCC.

The General Secretary concluded by thanking the Moderator and Vice-Moderators for their visits to Geneva and their pastoral concern for the staff.

* * *

A number of points in the General Secretary's report were taken up in the discussion which followed. In reply to a question from Dr Kang, Dr Potter said that a number of smaller organizations had already moved from Geneva. However, whenever the problem had been discussed it had always been concluded that Geneva was the least difficult location for an international organization like ours. It is a neutral city, allowing people of all nationalities to come in; it provides excellent facilities for the transfer of funds; it allows programmatic cooperation with other international organizations, and is a small city in which it is easy to live and work. Metropolitan Gregorios suggested that a small committee be appointed to consider and report on possible alternatives.

Dr McCloud, referring to the expressions of appreciation he had heard for the General Secretary's visit to Cuba, asked how the WCC and its member churches could learn from such visits. In reply, Dr Potter emphasized the strategic position of members of the Executive and Central Committees

in sharing such sensitive information. Archbishop Kirill asked for more details about the proposed new legislation in Israel. Mr Niilus replied that he had only recently received the English translation and hoped for further information when the representatives of the Christian Council visited the WCC. His Holiness Karekin II welcomed the greater attention being paid to the Orthodox contribution to dialogue and relationships. Dr Appel pleaded for an increase in the number of team visits to churches in spite of the demands that this would make on staff time and WCC finances. In reference to the meeting of Latin American churches, Dr Brash reported that the churches had pledged themselves to stress publicly and to their governments the positive reasons for their belonging to the WCC.

In conclusion, Archbishop Scott thanked the General Secretary for his very clear and comprehensive presentation and the Executive for the useful discussion. Other items raised were already on the agenda of the meeting.

3. REPORTS OF PROGRAMME UNITS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

A. Unit I: Faith and Witness

Dr Vischer presented the report on Unit I. The Programme on Theological Education was now established in Geneva. It had previously dealt only with the Third World but its mandate now covered theological education in all continents. In December 1977 a consultation on theological education in Europe had been held and in July 1978 there would be one on Orthodox education. He asked members for their comments on the first issue of the Sub-Unit's publication, "Ministerial Formation". The Sub-Unit on Dialogue was preparing for a major discussion at the next Central Committee, especially on the guidelines for dialogue provisionally adopted by the 1971 Central Committee. With regard to Faith and Order, Dr Vischer reported that the discussion on the Nairobi Section II report, "What unity requires", continues to attract interest in many quarters. Three consultations had taken place in the last month, with Roman Catholics as full partners in the debate (Conference of European Churches, USA, India). However, the problem arises of tension between the ecumenical reality which is emerging and the present structures of ecumenical organizations. Dr Vischer referred to the preparations for the next full meeting of the Faith and Order Commission in August, and for the Forum on Bilateral Conversations in April to which all World Confessional Families engaged in bilateral conversations have agreed to send delegations. It was hoped to have a discussion on the different concepts of unity which underlie these conversations.

Dr Abrecht, reporting on the Sub-Unit on Church and Society, spoke of preparations for the 1979 World Conference, for which churches were now beginning to select participants.

It had now been decided to meet at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, near Boston, USA.

Mr Castro reported on the recent CWME meeting in Puerto Rico. As this was the first full Commission meeting since the Nairobi Assembly, a general revision of the Commission's work had taken place. It was decided to merge the programmes of Urban Industrial Mission and Rural Agricultural Mission, and to intensify the missiological discussions with different levels of church life in the Orthodox churches: monks, priests, lay persons. The growing collaboration with the Sub-Unit on Renewal and Congregational Life was encouraged. The meeting recommended that the Executive Committee establish an advisory committee for the study programme of Unit II/CWME on the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources. The central point on the agenda was the preparation of the next mission conference to be held in 1980. It was agreed that the main theme would be "Your Kingdom Come", as an attempt to search for our missionary obedience in a spirit of prayer and in the eschatological perspective of the Kingdom. Sub-topics of the main theme would be: The reign of the suffering God has come in Christ; The reign of God and the poor; The reign of God and the struggles of the world; Announcing the reign of God in the power of the Spirit; Mission under the reign of God. The conference would be held in Melbourne, Australia, in May 1980. A budget was approved and procedures for the preparation of the conference decided.

B. Unit II: Justice and Service

Mr Itty, in presenting the report, spoke of the recent meeting of the Unit Executive Group which reviewed and gave direction to the various Unit programmes. The Executive Group's recommendations regarding certain programmes would be presented to the Executive Committee at a later stage. Concerning the study on Ecumenical Sharing of Resources, it was proposed that an interim report be presented to the Central Committee in 1979. Mr Itty referred to the problems faced by the Unit II Committee which had to take up not only questions related to five sub-units and the various unit programmes, but also public issues. He asked how the different levels of decision-making by the Unit Committee and Central Committee could be defined more clearly to enable the Unit Committee more effectively to play its part. With regard to the Christian Medical Commission, Mr Itty made special mention of the study on the healing ministry of the church. He also stressed CMC's cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church through the efforts of the Roman Catholic staff consultant. With regard to CCPD, Mr Itty spoke of the process of evaluation of CCPD's efforts, a full report of which will be made to the Commission in June. He also referred to the attempts that were being made to reflect on the role of the churches in socialist countries in the development process. CCPD was encouraged by the increasing demand to publish CCPD

documents in a number of languages (e.g. "Good News to the Poor" is published in eight languages).

C. Unit III: Education and Renewal

Miss Bam reported on the work of the last five months and referred to a number of consultations and visits. She spoke of the problems of the Sub-Unit on Youth which was struggling to find effective ways to reach young people. Immediately after the last Central Committee there had been a meeting of 40 young people in Bossey to discuss "Christian witness for social change". The Scholarships programme was shifting its emphasis from theological study to non-theological study. Provision was now being made for non-academic study programmes and this involved study tours and internship courses. We were trying to make it possible for families to get scholarships. This created some financial problems and it was necessary to discover what was unique about WCC scholarships compared with those provided by individual churches or confessional bodies for their own members. Miss Bam also stressed the importance of the International Year of the Child and spoke of a number of meetings organized by the Sub-unit on Women in Church and Society.

Mrs Jiagge asked whether the Sub-Unit could consider compiling a directory listing churches and women's groups working on particular programmes, e g. women in rural areas, to be shared with the member churches. Archbishop Scott suggested that this proposal be studied.

D. General Secretariat

a. Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

Prof. Mbiti reported that the present Graduate School was the largest ever organized by the Institute, with 63 students. At its conclusion, 30 students would be going to the Vatican for contacts with the Secretariat for Christian Unity. The next Graduate School would have for its study theme, "The Holy Spirit and the Ministry of the Church". Next year it was hoped to try the first project for extension work, with the Ecumenical Centre in Mindolo. Prof. Mbiti also drew attention to the leaflet published to help raise money for the Bossey Endowment Fund.

b. Department of Communication

Mr Hilke introduced the report of the Department of Communication, summarizing the present staffing situation in the Department after the arrival of Miss Ishbel Maclellan as the new radio producer. He further highlighted two selected points:

i. The meeting of the WCC's Communications Committee, 1-10 March, in Glion, Switzerland, would be addressing itself to the theme: "Objectivity, a myth in Christian

communication?". The Committee also would have to make recommendations with regard to further reductions in the 1979 budget of the Communication Department if this becomes necessary.

ii. A serious imbalance continued to exist between the needs and demands made by the "Third World" over and against the North Atlantic world. WCC communication resources (materials, travel, etc.) are already distributed mainly in English to Europe and North America. In addition the small staff of the Department is put under a great deal of pressure to make even more use of the many opportunities provided by the highly developed media systems of the rich world.

4. JUST, PARTICIPATORY AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Dr Raiser presented the report of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Central Committee in August 1977. The report was a preliminary summary of the discussions held by the Advisory Committee which were to be continued and developed further at the second meeting planned for September 1978.

The report clearly expressed two basic convictions that had emerged in the discussions of the Advisory Committee: 1) Justice is the governing and central term in the title "Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society"; 2) the starting points for this effort should be the present historical reality of injustice and struggle and the search by people everywhere for more justice and participation in society. Rather than developing a vision of an ideal society, the Advisory Committee saw its task and the purpose of this cooperative effort in helping Christians and churches involved in the struggle for justice in society to come to a clearer common understanding of the historical reality on the basis of the Christian faith.

The Advisory Committee felt that the most urgent need was to identify the areas in the struggle about which there was most disagreement and lack of clarity in the churches, and had singled out six issues for further study: the people as the subject of the struggle; the struggle about power; people's participation; the relation between national and international justice; the functions of science and technology; differing modes of action in the struggle. For its second meeting the Advisory Committee proposed to focus on a discussion of different regional perspectives in the search for a just, participatory and sustainable society. Further work also needed to be done on producing a working statement for wider circulation among the churches and groups engaged in similar programmes. As the second meeting of the Advisory Committee would be held immediately prior to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, a further interim report would be presented at this occasion

with the understanding that a formal report would be made to the Central Committee in January 1979.

In response to some questions, Dr Raiser emphasized that JPSS was a common programme emphasis and a coordinating thrust of the WCC as a whole: it was not another programme alongside those already existing. The World Conference on Science, Faith and the Future was one of the specific initiatives under preparation in this area. Archbishop Kirill stressed in particular the importance in this context of clarifying the various understandings of eschatology among the churches in the ecumenical movement. How do we as Christians understand the future? Mrs Sampath congratulated the Advisory Committee on producing a paper that was comprehensible to people in the churches.

After further discussion the matter was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee. At a later stage the Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed:

i. to express its appreciation to the JPSS Advisory Committee for its help in clarifying some of the major theological and ethical issues arising in the context of this programme emphasis and for giving direction to the further process of reflection;

ii. that the report be shared with the commissions and working groups concerned with the request to relate their specific programmes to the tentative framework and the theological reflection offered by the Advisory Committee, spelling out in particular their contribution to the clarification of the Christian vision of a "just society";

iii. that regional presentation to the second meeting of the Advisory Committee be prepared, keeping in mind questions like: Where is the struggle for justice, participation and sustainability being impeded? What are the encouraging signs and creative movements? What are the conceptual issues needing clarification?

iv. that the Advisory Committee, in continuing its reflection, consider the observations made during the discussion in this meeting of the Executive Committee, in particular regarding the relation between the eschatological perspective of the Kingdom and the present historical reality, the emphasis on the human person and the quality of life in society, the dimensions of evil and suffering, the need for dialogue, and the importance of participation and sustainability in offering a concrete understanding of justice under the diverse conditions of our societies.

5. REPORT ON PROGRAMME ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCs)

Mr de Gaspar presented the report (Appendix III). He indicated that the group working on this topic was greatly encouraged by the amount of activity and interest evident in the churches. The report drew attention to the main issues that are emerging. Mr de Gaspar requested that the Executive give general approval to the programme lines proposed.

In the following discussion Miss Webb referred specially to the important work being done by small groups in relationship to TNCs. Bishop Antonie suggested that perhaps the WCC should take a more radical position. There was some discussion on the relationship between the report on the consultation held in Geneva, June 1977, and the document being submitted for Executive approval. It was made clear that the consultation report was addressed to the WCC which was in no way responsible for its conclusions. The staff document before the Executive contained proposals for which approval was sought. The consultation report would be clearly marked as not a WCC document.

After further discussion, the staff paper was referred to the Sub-Committee on Programme and at a later stage, on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee, having received the report of the Programme on Transnational Corporations approved the programme guidelines and instructed the staff to proceed with the implementation of the programme as indicated in the report, and in the light of the discussion which took place in the Executive Committee.

6. MILITARISM AND DISARMAMENT

Mr Koshy presented the report on the Consultation on Militarism held in Switzerland, 13-18 November 1977. The report contained some interim proposals. A number of theological issues were raised by the Consultation and it was planned to produce a popular booklet on militarism for local churches.

Mr Koshy also reported on the planning, proceeding in close consultation with the churches, for a Conference on Disarmament in April 1978 prior to the special session of the UN on that topic in May/June 1978. The topics which had been suggested for the WCC Conference included conventional weapons; nuclear weapons; international arms trade; disarmament and development; the machinery for disarmament, and theological questions. Further discussion would clarify the issues that will be central to the Conference. It was hoped that a programme of action for the churches would be devised after the Conference on Disarmament incorporating also proposals from the Consultation on Militarism.

In the course of discussion Archbishop Sundby stressed

that the term "militarism" called for much more precise definition. There needed to be a recognition of the difference between legitimate preparation for defence and illegitimate control of society by military forces. Professor Barkat emphasized that it was very difficult to make this distinction in some of the national situations now existing. Dr Kang felt that we should concentrate on the practical problems of preventing a new war. Metropolitan Gregorios proposed that more attention be given to the theological implications of the concepts of security and trust.

Catholicos Karekin II emphasized that in certain circumstances military forces were creative and genuinely protective of peace. Bishop Antonie proposed that the WCC should move towards taking clear positions on issues in this field. In reply to a question, the General Secretary made clear that the Consultation reports as such were not WCC documents but documents addressed to the WCC and this would be clearly indicated in the reports.

The Executive Committee agreed to give general approval to the plans of the Conference on Disarmament and to authorize the CCIA to make available to churches, national and regional councils, etc. the findings of the Conference, soliciting their reactions.

7. ENERGY ADVISORY GROUP

In his report Dr Abrecht presented the replies of the Energy Advisory Group (meeting in London, November 1977) to the various requests of the August meeting of the Central Committee concerning the position of the WCC on the ethical issues of energy policy. He presented first the prospectus for the Second WCC Consultation on "Ecumenical Concerns in Relation to Nuclear Energy", to be held at the Ecumenical Institute, 2-7 May, 1978; he noted that in the planning for the Consultation every effort had been made to satisfy the terms laid down by the Central Committee. This report was received as information by the Executive Committee.

Secondly, Dr Abrecht presented a reflection paper from the Energy Advisory Group on "International Sharing of Nuclear Technology for Peaceful Uses". The paper reflected that this is a highly controversial area and the matter needed much further discussion internationally and nationally. Clearly, there is need for adequate international structures both to share the benefits of nuclear energy and also to control it. On the proposal of Dr Barkat, it was agreed that the paper be sent to the May Consultation and that thereafter the Working Group on Church and Society should report the matter back to the Executive Committee.

Thirdly, Dr Abrecht presented a draft of an Appeal to WCC

Member Churches concerning Energy Conservation in the Framework of a Just Society. It was suggested that this appeal should go out with the "Energy for My Neighbour" folder explaining how congregations and individuals could contribute to the saving of energy. In answer to a question, Dr Abrecht indicated that this material would be available in English, French and German. The Executive Committee endorsed the appeal.

Finally, Dr Abrecht presented a report on the WCC "Energy for My Neighbour" programme. A number of specific projects were being devised. A folder had been prepared and the material was already being used by a number of churches. It was hoped that these national church programmes would benefit by the leadership which the WCC could provide at the international level as well. Dr Potter explained that the administration of projects related to this programme would be worked out by the relevant sub-units. The Executive Committee received the report on the programme.

8. CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dr Brash presented a paper on the criteria for the reception of new member churches into the WCC. He reminded the Committee that the issue had arisen at the last Central Committee and that the General Secretary had been instructed to investigate the problems with interested churches and report back to the Central Committee. This paper summarized the work done at staff level and was primarily for information and comment.

It was proposed that instead of changing the criteria as listed in the Constitution, it be established as a normal practice that when a church applies for membership it be visited by a group representative of the WCC. Discussions would take place with the applying church, and also with other member churches in the same area. Discussions would focus on the aims of the WCC and the meaning of membership for the applying church. A record would be kept of issues raised, and this would provide a basis for on-going conversation between that church and the WCC. The recommendation to the Central Committee would then come from the whole of the member church constituency in the area, as well as from the visiting team.

With regard to united churches, it was proposed that the following be added to Rule I, sub-section 2:

> "If an application is received from a church which results from a union of two or more churches, the Central Committee may receive it into membership without circulation to the member churches, provided that all of the uniting churches were members of the WCC prior to the union."

Archbishop Kirill spoke of his concern that the continual growth of the Council, mainly by the addition of Protestant churches, meant that the proportion of Orthodox on various committees was constantly diminishing. He asked that staff study the matter and bring a paper to the Executive in September. The General Secretary agreed that this was an important point in considering the membership of committees but should not affect the criteria for membership in the WCC.

Dr Marshall pointed out that Protestants of many distinctive traditions should not be lumped together. The matter must be studied in all its complexity. Metropolitan Gregorios supported the proposal of a staff document and agreed that certain traditions may be over-represented on some committees, but reminded the Committee that questions could also be asked about regional representation. The General Secretary stressed that the Rules required consideration to be given to a variety of criteria in appointing committees.

After further discussion, the Executive Committee agreed:

i. That the new procedure regarding the reception of new member churches be recommended to the Central Committee for approval;

ii. that the General Secretary be requested to share this proposal with the member churches in time for comments to be received before the Central Committee, January 1979;

iii. that the proposed Rule regarding the reception of united or uniting churches be recommended to the Central Committee for approval;

iv. that a staff paper on the proportional representation of various confessional groupings in committees be prepared for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

9. ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Dr Vischer reported that work on the ecumenical prayer cycle was almost completed and asked how it might best be presented to the churches. The cycle would be launched at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 1979 but it was important to share it with the churches well in advance so that they might have time to reflect on possible ways of using it. He hoped it would be regarded as a flexible proposal and that each church would feel free to make appropriate use of the material offered.

Miss Webb welcomed the cycle and asked if unbound sheets could be made available for inclusion in existing prayer

manuals. Archbishop Sundby asked that stress be laid on the main aim of the WCC: the unity of all Christians. Dr Marshall pointed out the importance of making available information about the prayer cycle early enough so that churches could be fully alerted to its availability before 1979.

The General Secretary, in reply to Archbishop Sundby, stressed that the very existence of the prayer cycle was intended to demonstrate the unity of the churches. Replying to Miss Webb, Dr Vischer indicated that it was basic to the proposal that each church would use the material according to its own circumstances. He also emphasized the importance of publishing news about the use made of the cycle to encourage other churches to use it.

After further discussion on a number of practical questions, the Executive Committee agreed to offer the cycle to the churches and commend its use.

10. WORLD CONFESSIONAL FAMILIES

Dr Brash presented a staff paper which attempted to continue the discussion process on WCC relationships with World Confessional Families. The Executive Committee in February 1977 had approved a paper raising questions for discussion. Many WCFs had taken this paper seriously and were in process of discussing it. During Central Committee 1977 an informal meeting of WCF Advisers and WCC staff proposed the holding of a jointly sponsored consultation in October 1978 in preparation for the major discussion on these relationships at the Central Committee in January 1979. The present paper was an endeavour to secure the guidance of the Executive Committee as staff prepared for this consultation. The paper stressed that in ecumenical discussion the term "World Confessional Family" referred to all communions of churches, however differently they may conceive and organize their relationships. At the present time there was much emphasis on the importance of visible unity being achieved among Christians in each place and, at the same time, on the importance of the churches taking coordinated global action. These facts made the redefinition of relationships between the WCC and WCFs urgent.

During the discussion many questions were asked about the place of united churches in this series of relationships and Dr Vischer referred to the intention of such churches, as expressed in the Toronto Consultation 1975, to avoid the establishment of a family of united churches but rather to use the facilities of the WCC for mutual relationships.

Some members of the Executive pointed out that the paper was too general and somewhat apologetic, but it had the

merit of facing the present reality of the existence of WCFs in a helpful way. Emphasis was laid upon the necessity of the WCC's fully understanding and representing the concerns of regional councils, and especially of churches in Asia, Africa and Latin America, for these relationships. It was agreed that the paper should be revised before being made available as a staff document for discussion with WCFs.

The Executive Committee approved the plans for the proposed consultation, and emphasized that it would be of value only if it concentrated on practical ways of increasing co-operation, improving structural relationships and making specific proposals to the WCFs and the WCC.

The question of the appointment of the WCC participants in that consultation was referred to the Nominations Sub-Committee. At a later stage, the Sub-Committee proposed and the Executive Committee agreed that the group of WCC participants in the consultation with World Confessional Families in October 1978 should include persons with the following expertise or background:

a. membership in WCC Executive and/or Central Committee;

b. familiarity with the work and self-understanding of the WCC together with participation in the life and activities of a given World Confessional Family;

c. theological insight into the ecclesiological issues arising in the context of the relationship between the WCC and WCF;

d. ability to articulate the specific concerns and perspectives of Uniting and United Churches as well as regional and national ecumenical councils and conferences;

e. experience with the task of responding to and implementing initiatives from WCC and WCFs on the level of a given local church;

f. experience in the field of Inter-Church Aid and World Service, particularly regarding parallel or overlapping service and development programmes by WCC and WCFs.

It was agreed that proposals of names (7 or more) should be submitted to the Officers for appointment.

11. ORTHODOX CONSULTATION

Dr Raiser reported on the consultation of Orthodox theologians on "The Ecumenical Nature of the Orthodox Witness" held under the auspices of the Orthodox Task Force of the

World Council of Churches in the new Valamo Monastery in Finland, 24-30 September, 1977. The meeting had been prepared in consultation with Orthodox members of the Central Committee. All Orthodox member churches had sent representatives except the churches in Armenia, Czechoslovakia and Ethiopia.

The Consultation discussed in particular the eucharistic understanding of the Church and the ecclesiological significance of the local church; issues of confessing faith and the role of confessionalism in the ecumenical movement; and the inter-relationship between the Church's service in society and its liturgical life. Dr Raiser stressed that a number of issues arising from the Consultation would receive further attention, i.e. the significance of the new approach to the local church; the participation of Orthodox churches in the ecumenical movement; matters relating to the ecumenical role of World Confessional Families; and the implications of the concept of the "liturgy after the Liturgy". The materials prepared in relation to the Consultation were being edited for publication, and further specific consultations and visits were being planned.

In the discussion Bishop Antonie referred to some of the difficulties in securing the understanding of some Orthodox leaders for the nature and purpose of the WCC. In answer to Bishop Hempel's question as to whether the report was an official Orthodox declaration, Dr Raiser explained that the people present were officially appointed but the paper had only the authority of the Consultation. Bishop Harms spoke of his understanding of the Orthodox limiting participation in the Eucharist, but he felt the anguish of that situation very deeply. He referred to a change taking place in his own church in regard to this matter. Catholicos Karekin II indicated that the ecumenical movement must in fact constitute a continuing challenge for all churches, including the Orthodox. Concern for unity cannot be separated from issues of renewal and social involvement. Archbishop Kirill stressed that the two things needing closer study in the WCC were the varying understandings of apostolic succession and the nature of the local church. Ecumenical exchange on these topics would enrich mutual understanding. He warned of the dangers of too easily departing from the Toronto declaration. Dr Vischer indicated that much of the Toronto statement was outdated by events in the ecumenical movement.

The General Secretary shared with the Executive some of the questions being asked about the Orthodox churches. How do the Orthodox really regard other churches? What is the relationship between the classical Orthodox statements and the present daily life of the Orthodox churches? Do the Orthodox churches take the theological reflections of the Third World seriously? How do the Orthodox understand the ecclesiological significance of <u>diakonia</u>, the sharing of resources between Orthodox and non-Orthodox

churches? Bishop Antonie thanked Dr Potter for raising these questions. The Orthodox need to hear them and a serious consideration of them is possible only in the ecumenical fellowship.

Archbishop Scott expressed warm appreciation for the significant discussion that had taken place.

12. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS

A. Joint Working Group

Dr Vischer reported on the Joint Working Group meeting in Torino, in December 1977 where there had been a main emphasis on common witness. There had been agreement on a proposal for common study. The Joint Working Group had had considerable discussion about the need to prepare a further report to the parent bodies, and the guidance of the Executive Committee on this question was sought. Dr Vischer indicated that there was considerable need to supplement the work of the Joint Working Group by direct action by the WCC on a number of questions concerning relations with the Roman Catholic Church with which the churches were concerned.

In the discussion which followed, considerable regret was expressed that the Roman Catholic participation outside of the Curia in the Joint Working Group seemed to have been reduced. It was unclear by what means the Secretariat for Unity was arranging for the distribution of relevant material within the Roman Catholic Church. Metropolitan Gregorios stressed that there were stronger ecumenical relationships with the Roman Catholic churches at regional and local levels than at the level of Geneva and Rome, and this development should be utilized. Bishop Harms referred to the many bilateral conversations between the Roman Catholic Church and confessional families: it appeared that the Vatican regarded these as of greater importance than the work of the Joint Working Group. The results of these conversations would be examined at the Faith and Order Forum in April. Archbishop Kirill felt that we should make more use of the Secretariat for Unity statement on local ecumenism. President Custer of Zürich spoke of the excellent relationships in Switzerland between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

After further discussion, the Executive Committee:

i. welcomed the efforts of the Joint Working Group and encouraged the continuation of the study efforts in the field of the "Unity of the Church" and "Common Witness";

ii. noted the agreement in the Joint Working Group to prepare a joint report which would be submitted to the Central Committee in 1979;

iii. recognizing the limitations of the Joint Working Group, underlined the need of supplementary efforts on the part of the World Council of Churches to deepen and develop relations with the Roman Catholic Church, especially at the national and local levels;

iv. asked that a report be prepared for the next meeting of the Executive Committee assessing the relations with the Roman Catholic Church and suggesting new supplementary efforts regarding the involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in the ecumenical movement.

B. Evaluation of SODEPAX

In presenting this report (Appendix IV), Mr Itty referred to the recommendations of the Central Committee in August 1977 and the consequent enquiry among the churches about the continuing functions of SODEPAX. Almost all replies had been positive about the continuation of SODEPAX but some differences of opinion had emerged about its functions. However, it was generally agreed that SODEPAX must continue its function of liaison between the two parent bodies and of assisting in strengthening local ecumenical cooperation.

After some discussion, it was agreed:

i. to approve the renewal of the mandate of SODEPAX for another period of three years beginning January 1979;

ii. to give general approval to the functions indicated;

iii. to instruct the SODEPAX Committee to review the structural arrangements and prepare detailed programme plans and income possibilities and report to the Executive Committee in September 1978.

13. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Chipenda presented a report on the significant changes that had taken place in Southern Africa since 1975, with the growing success of the liberation movements and the shift in the policy of Western countries. He referred particularly to recent events in South Africa, to proposed new legislation which would seriously restrict the social work of the churches, and to legislation which would deny citizenship to blacks in South Africa and condemn them to the Bantustans.

In discussion it was generally agreed that the WCC should

adopt a flexible strategy with regard to South Africa and a number of guidelines were suggested to the General Secretary for future action.

Dr Marshall spoke of the urgency of the situation in Namibia and asked that the Executive make a specific recommendation on the subject. After further discussion, it was agreed that a group comprising Mrs Jiagge (convener), Dr Marshall, Dr McCloud and Metropolitan Gregorios should work with staff on the preparation of statements on Namibia and on the new legislation in South Africa.

A. Namibia

At a later session Mrs Jiagge presented a proposed resolution on Namibia. After discussion and amendment, it was agreed to adopt the revised statement as follows:

> The Central Committee in August 1977 called upon member churches "to press their governments and the South African government to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 385 and the UN recognition of SWAPO as the authentic representative of the Namibian people". Negotiations regarding the future of Namibia have reached a critical stage.
>
> The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches meeting in Boldern, Switzerland, February 13-17, 1978, reiterates the WCC's support to the people of Namibia in their struggle and asserts that self-determination for Namibia becomes more urgent each passing day.
>
> The Executive Committee affirms that the following conditions are essential for the exercise of the right of self-determination of the people of Namibia:
>
> 1. that the policy of 'divide and rule' as indicated by the fostering of new political parties by the South African government be brought to an end, in order to ensure that a nation may be formed with a unity that will provide rule by the majority and protection of minorities;
>
> 2. that the military and police forces of South Africa be withdrawn in favour of a temporary international peace-keeping force under the auspices of the United Nations;
>
> 3. that Walvis Bay be retained as an integral part of the territory of independent Namibia, especially because that deep-sea port is essential for the economic development and self-reliance of Namibia;
>
> 4. that free elections be held under supervision and control of the United Nations lest the interference of the South African government prevent the creation of a fully independent state.

B. Statement on new legislation in South Africa

Mrs Jiagge presented a draft statement on the new legislation in South Africa. After discussion and slight amendment, it was agreed to adopt the revised statement as follows:

> The South African government, soon after the banning of eighteen organizations working for racial justice, took steps to enact legislation that will prevent the formation and growth of other lawful organizations to take their place. The Social Workers and Associated Professions Bill, the National Welfare Bill and the Fund Raising Bill, when implemented, will impose the most severe restrictions that will in effect prohibit organizations and groups in South Africa from raising funds for, or channelling funds to, victims of oppression. The implications of these pieces of legislation for churches in South Africa are obvious. The South African churches will find themselves confined to a narrow range of strictly defined 'religious' activities, because living out the social implications of the gospel becomes 'unlawful'.
>
> More sweeping than this set of legislative measures, is the bill reported to be before the South African Parliament which aims at totally and finally denying citizenship to blacks in South Africa making it obligatory for them to seek 'citizenship' in one of the 'homelands'. The bantustan policy has seriously affected the work of the churches and the Methodist Church of South Africa is being forced to reorganize itself to suit the political structures of a 'bantustan'.
>
> The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches meeting in February 1978 in Boldern, Switzerland, calls upon the member churches
>
> 1. to mobilize public opinion against the three new bills that will severely restrict the activities of the churches,
>
> 2. to extend all possible support to churches in South Africa in their efforts to assist people in the context of intensified oppression, and
>
> 3. to bring pressure upon their respective governments and the South African government to halt and reverse the South African government's policy of denying blacks citizenship in South Africa and to abandon apartheid policy including the existence of bantustans.

14. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

Dr Becker reported on developments since the 1977 Central Committee had agreed to participate in the 1979 International Year of the Child. Many churches were expressing special interest in this Year and in addition looking afresh at their whole ministry to children. Dr Becker presented background material about the needs of children, referring both to the 15 million who annually die of starvation and the 90 million permanently damaged by malnutrition, and also to the children deprived by neglect in the midst of affluence. He stressed that the churches are committed to the ministry with children and advocacy for children. He summarized the proposed plans for WCC involvement in connection with the International Year of the Child as follows:

a. To rediscover and to promote the biblical view of the child;

b. to assess the place of children in the Church, in its sacramental and worshipping life;

c. to learn from and to promote the experiences and views of children;

d. to work on a holistic understanding of Christian anthropology;

e. to review critically and work against some of the most damaging manipulative influences on children;

f. to review present systems of care for orphaned and abandoned children and to propagate alternative models which respond most justly to the needs of children;

g. to analyze the priorities governing the strategies and projects of development and relief by WCC sub-units and related agencies;

h. to integrate into the WCC's involvement for Human Rights and Rights of the Child.

In the course of discussion Dr McCloud expressed concern that issues related to adoption were not sufficiently emphasized. He also felt that more stress should be laid on the non-material needs of children. Mrs Jiagge felt that more attention should be given to the issues surrounding the unborn child. Mrs Wedel pointed out that the WCC must be selective as it did not have the resources for too many programmes. Several speakers emphasized the need to see the child in the context of the family and the community. Mr Bena-Silu drew attention to the needs of children in prison. In reply, Dr Becker indicated that some of the suggestions made would be added to the programme.

The Executive Committee agreed to give general approval to the proposed programme and timetable on the understanding that staff would take into consideration items raised in the discussion and report to the next meeting of the Committee. It was also agreed that staff should adjust the document in the light of the discussion for distribution as a background paper.

15. REVIEW COMMITTEE

His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the Sub-Committee on Programme, reported that the Sub-Committee had received information regarding the preparations made for the meeting of the Review Committee on September 25-30, 1978, in Geneva. The Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed:

a. To confirm the mandate of the Review Committee as follows:

   i. To review programme developments since the Assembly and in particular the implementation of the programme emphases formulated by the Central Committee in 1976;

   ii. to interpret the major programmes of the Council and assess their acceptance by and impact on the constituency on regional and national levels;

   iii. to examine proposals for new programmes and major programme emphases for the period after 1979;

   iv. to look forward to issues which are emerging for the programme of the Sixth Assembly;

   v. to relate programme and budget planning to each other, while avoiding getting involved in the details of budget preparation.

b. To request the General Secretary to initiate a process of review on staff level and in the commissions and working groups of the sub-units;

c. that the criteria provided in the report of the Programme Guidelines Committee of the Nairobi Assembly be taken into account in giving direction to the review of programmes;

d. that the Review Committee be informed clearly about financial and structural options.

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Nominations, it was agreed that Ms Waltraut Peper, GDR, and Mr Bena-Silu, Zaïre, be added to the membership of the Review Committee.

16. REPORT ON NOMINATIONS

Miss Skuse presented the report on nominations.

A. Membership of commissions and working groups

The Sub-Committee reminded the Executive that the present members of the 15 sub-unit commissions and working groups had been appointed only for the period until the meeting of the Central Committee in early 1979, "with the understanding that appointments can be reviewed with due attention to securing better continuity and balance". The Central Committee would therefore have to consider the re-appointment of members of commissions and working groups, maintaining as far as possible the present membership in order to preserve continuity, especially in view of the fact that committees will have met very infrequently in the period since the Assembly, but allowing for changes which might be desirable. In order to enable the Executive Committee to bring a clear recommendation to the Central Committee in January 1979, the Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that:

i. the General Secretary be asked to initiate a process of review on the level of the sub-units;

ii. the sub-units, in reviewing the present composition of their commission or working group, give attention to balance and representation, attendance at meetings, competence required, etc.;

iii. a progress report be brought to the Executive Committee at its meeting in September 1978.

B. Possibility of joint staff appointment with the regions

Following the request of the Central Committee in August 1977 that the Executive Committee consider the possibility of making joint staff appointments with the regions, the Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that the General Secretary be asked:

i. to enter into contact with regional ecumenical bodies about the proposal;

ii. to clarify the possible meaning of joint appointment (obligatory consultation, authority mutually to veto appointments, shared responsibility financially, etc.);

iii. to determine the positions to which this procedure could be applied;

iv. to report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee in September 1978.

17. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Marshall presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee as follows:

Financial Report on 1977

On the basis of the preliminary figures available, the Committee reports that there has been considerable under-spending of the authorized 1977 budget. Interest achieved on reserves and other funds has averaged 5.5% throughout the year. While the devaluation of the US dollar in the last months of the year caused some reduction of income, the overall exchange situation throughout the year was slightly better than expected. Overall, it appears at this time that there is a balance of income over expenditure of approximately half-a-million francs from central church treasury contributions. The audited accounts will be available within a few months. Meantime it appears that the balance in central church treasury funds has increased from Sfr 250,000 (approx.) as at December 31, 1976 to Sfr 750,000 at December 31, 1977, which restores the level at December 31, 1975.

The Committee reports that there was an increase of income, even in terms of Swiss francs, from churches in the USA and FRG, and a substantial increase was achieved from churches in the rest of the world. The Committee expresses the thanks of the WCC to all churches involved for the continuing and increasing financial support.

Audit Committee

The Finance Committee noted that the Audit Committee as appointed by the Executive has now begun work with the auditors and the staff in regard to the financial statements for 1977.

Approved Budget 1978

The budget for 1978 was authorized by the Central Committee in August 1977, and the comprehensive and detailed figures published in the Statement of Needs ("Blue Book 1978"). Following the Central Committee a number of adjustments were made to eliminate double accounting of expenditures (related to inter-department transfers). Secondly, conditional budget items for which adequate funds have not been received were eliminated. Some minor budgeting errors relating to staff remuneration were corrected.

In view of the recent substantial and sudden decline in the exchange value of the US dollar and to a lesser extent of the Deutsch-Mark, it has proved necessary in addition for staff to present proposals for further adjustment. It was accepted on the advice of the Investment Advisory Group that the WCC should budget for 1978 on the basis of

$1 = Sfr 2.- and DM 1.- = Sfr 1.-. This has necessitated the reduction of the 1978 budget as authorized in August 1977 by 12.5%. This reduction was required in all parts of the WCC budget, and not only in regard to the undesignated central church treasury contributions. This has been achieved by proportionate reductions on all payments for finance, travel, PTT, central services, and internal transfers between sub-units. It is proposed that no action should be taken at this time on authorized new staff appointments in CICARWS, CMC, CCPD, Renewal and Congregational Life, Education, Youth, and Faith and Order sub-units. Secretarial posts, already reduced by 25% since 1974, are being further reduced. Expenses for commission meetings planned around the world have been carefully revised, and consultations and other meetings proposed have been substantially reduced in regard to DFI, CCIA, PCR, Renewal and Congregational Life, Women's Desk, Faith and Order, Church and Society, Education sub-units and the Department of Communication. Other programme reductions have been made by CCPD, CWME and PTE.

The overall result of this process is that the comprehensive budget of Sfr 34,589,075.- as approved in August 1977 has been reduced to Sfr 30,456,141.-, a reduction of 11.8% (Appendix V).

In regard to anticipated income for 1978, it appears that, provided the exchange rates anticipated are proved to be substantially factual, the income from central church treasuries will be sufficient to cover commitments with the possible use of not more than Sfr 500,000 from the balance mentioned above. Sections of the budget relying on designated income face considerable problems (e.g. Unit II faces a deficit in 1978 of approximately Sfr 1.6 million, even after reducing its planned expenditure by 10%), but in 1978 at least the position can be covered by working balances.

The Committee recognizes that exchange rates may continue to fluctuate and this could be to the further disadvantage of the 1978 budget. Such fluctuation could be of such proportions that the resulting deficit would seriously deplete the Exchange Fluctuation Fund. The Exchange Fluctuation Fund, which covers exchange losses on the whole budget, stands at just over one million dollars, and the Finance Committee is firmly of the opinion that not more than 50% of that Fund should be called on in any one year. Between the value in Sfrs of US$ and DM when the budget was amended and the value as of this date (15 February) the deficit would be increased by a further Sfr 1.5 million if the present-day rate were to continue throughout the year. The Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that, in the event that this situation continues or deteriorates, the Officers and the moderator of the Finance Committee be authorized to take whatever steps are possible in regard to the 1978 budget.

On the above understandings the Finance Committee recommended the approval of the 1978 WCC budget as now amended, and the Executive Committee agreed.

1979 Estimated Expenditure

The Committee has examined the staff estimates of anticipated expenditures in 1979, incorporating a 3% increase for possible salary adjustments, but otherwise retaining almost all other items at the 1978 level. The estimates indicate an overall increase of 2% as compared to the 1978 amended budget. While no Executive Committee decision is required on the 1979 budget until September 1978, the Committee draws attention to the following facts:

- In 1978 amended budget there are anticipated expenditures in excess of income, to be covered out of working balances (approximately Sfr 1.6 million in Unit II and Sfr 500,000 in central church treasury contributions). The balances for these purposes will not be available in 1979.

- It is also clear that the exchange situation is unlikely to have improved and may have deteriorated by that time.

- Although member churches are expected to increase their contributions in 1979, the result in terms of Swiss francs may represent a decline in expendable income for the WCC. On the basis of some estimates of exchange rates, income could fall far short of the present proposals for expenditures. In addition to lesser shortages in Units I and III, there could be shortages of Sfr 900,000 from central church treasuries and Sfr 1,000,000 for Unit II.

The Finance Committee draws the attention of the Executive Committee to the seriousness of this situation. It is to be noted that Unit II has covered the expenditures of all of its sub-units without any dependence upon central church treasuries; the Finance Committee is grateful for that fact. While the Unit foresees the possibility of continuing to cover such expenditures in 1979, it has questioned whether it could also make contributions to Unit III for Youth and Scholarships as has been done in the past. Since the question could be extended to all the support given to programmes across unit lines, the Finance Committee urges a comprehensive view of the work of WCC. Such an approach would acknowledge that the location of administration for a programme in a particular unit does not eliminate the possibility that a programme falls within the scope of concern of another unit as well, and thereby of the supporting agencies of that unit. The original reasons for sharing responsibility should continue to be taken seriously lest an imbalance develop in the overall work of the WCC.

The Finance Committee continues to resist an improper involvement in setting programme priorities. Consequently, the Committee advocates a process that involves the units in setting the priorities. While a specific dimension of possible reductions is being recommended as a way of being prepared for possible eventualities and of preparing early enough to involve the units, it should not be concluded that the reductions have been decided already, or even that the reductions will eventually be needed. The recommended process is an attempt to be responsible in the face of present indicators. At the same time, the first emphasis must be upon efforts to communicate the need to member churches and donor agencies.

The Finance Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that:

1. The Office for Income Coordination and Development (OICD)

    a. continue all possible efforts with member churches and church-related donor agencies to secure primarily undesignated funds to assure the continuation of activities financed from central church treasury income;

    b. recognizing that many donor agencies operate under mandate restrictions, the OICD explore all possibilities to solicit designated funds from these agencies which meet programme and operating budget needs which coincide with the mandate of such donors;

    c. that all approaches to member churches and donor agencies be cleared through the OICD in order to avoid competing requests.

2. All budget entities review their expenditure proposals for 1979 in order to effect every possible economy, and indicate which programmes should be reduced or terminated if 90% of the original amount were available and further if only 80% were available.

3. The Officers and the Moderator of the Finance Committee be requested to:

    a. review the suggested revisions and possible programme adjustments, and

    b. taking into account the priorities of the WCC, suggest the funds expected to be available for each budget entity, thus making it possible to present a balanced budget for 1979 to the meeting of the Executive Committee in September 1978.

Meeting of Central Committee 1979

In view of the financial situation the Committee considered the implications of holding the next Central Committee in Jamaica. The Committee is aware of the conviction of the Central Committee that there are major values for the WCC and for the churches of the area if the plan be adhered to. The Central Committee has met in Geneva in both 1976 and 1977 and it is of primary significance that the next meeting be held outside Europe, and be of a residential character. The Finance Committee noted that the additional cost of meeting in Jamaica as compared with a meeting in the Geneva area is a maximum of Sfr 75,000 in each of the budgets of 1978 and 1979. This amount may be considerably reduced by staff negotiations with churches which assist in various ways. After discussing the matter fully the Finance Committee does not find that there is sufficient basis for considering any change in the present plans.

Location of WCC Headquarters

In view of the currency and cost-of-living problems, and the difficulty of securing non-Swiss staff in secretarial and administrative posts, the question of the location of WCC Headquarters in Geneva has been under discussion. The Finance Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed:

- that the General Secretary be requested, either on behalf of WCC, or in cooperation with other international religious organizations, to raise with appropriate Swiss authorities the question as to whether any measure of relief can be provided in regard to these problems;

- that the General Secretary be requested to arrange a study of possible alternative locations for the WCC Headquarters for consideration of the Executive Committee in September 1978.

In view of these impending enquiries it was further recommended and agreed that the proposal to build an extension to the WCC Headquarters be deferred for further consideration by the Executive Committee in September 1978.

Ecumenical Institute

Dr Konrad Raiser reported to the Committee on recent developments in regard to the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey. He referred to changes in the staff and administration situation and to the financial arrangements that are being made. It is clear that the Institute, like the rest of the WCC, faces major financial problems in 1979, and a detailed report will be made to the Executive Committee in September 1978. Considerable contributions from the German and Swiss churches have been assured

towards the work of the Institute. A number of committees have been formed recently to promote the Foundation Fund.

Peat, Marwick & Mitchell, Consultants

The Finance Committee was informed that the work of the Consultants has been completed, and that they have advised the Officers of WCC that the establishment of the new financial system had been achieved to their satisfaction. The new computer system is also now in operation, although certain new programmes have not yet been prepared. The entire operation has been fulfilled within the budgetary provision already authorized.

Salary System and Staff Benefits

The General Secretary reported to the Finance Committee on a number of problems that had emerged in regard to the operation of the present salary system and the related fringe benefits. The Finance Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration and the Director of Personnel be requested to prepare a report on the structure of the salary system with reference to the problems that have emerged, and alternative solutions for presentation to the Executive Committee in September 1978.

The Finance Committee was also presented with certain staff questions in relation to "main wage earner" status and attached benefits, and to the needs of solo parents.

After full discussion, and with the presence of the moderator of the Staff Representative Group, and in consideration of the requested report on the salary system and related benefits, the Finance Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed:

- that as from March 1st, 1978 there be provided a solo parents' allowance of an amount equivalent to the marriage allowance;

- that pending the receipt of the report on the structure of the salary system no action be taken in the implementation or change of the regulations in regard to the criteria for the main wage earner status.

Investment Advisory Group

The Committee was advised of the assistance provided to staff by this highly competent group of experts in the financial field. Much of this advice concerned questions of the use of different currencies for current funds, and the supervision of the four portfolio managers of WCC investments.

Exchange Fluctuation Fund

This Fund has been established to protect the total WCC budget against exchange fluctuations. The Finance Committee recognizes that the possible demands on such a Fund in the future will be considerable. On the other hand, it also recognizes that the needs of the various sections of the WCC on whose funds the interest concerned is earned, are very great. The Committee therefore recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that 10% of the interest earned in 1977 be allocated to the Exchange Fluctuation Fund.

Provident and Retirement Fund Boards

The Finance Committee received a report of the meeting of the Boards which had received the audited financial statements of the Funds as of December 31, 1977. The changes in the rules as approved by the Executive Committee in July 1977 have now been approved by the authorities in Bern, and the rules are in the process of being reprinted for the benefit of all participants. The number of full pensions has increased from 23 to 26 during the last year, and the number of widows' pensions from 6 to 7.

The Boards are investigating the possibility that, as the Funds and the number of participants increase and the administration becomes more technical and complicated, the Funds be fully administered by a professional agency rather than by WCC staff. The matter is being further studied and it is anticipated that a firm proposal will be made at the time of the Executive Committee in September 1978.

Mr Wesley Kenworthy has been appointed as secretary of the Boards as from the date of his taking up his responsibilities in the WCC.

Functioning of the Finance Committee

The Committee is aware of a certain overlapping of functions between the work of the Executive Finance Sub-Committee and the Finance Committee of the Central Committee when the Executive and the Central Committees meet at the same time. The Committee does not ask for any formal action at this time, but simply draws attention to the fact that such overlapping occurs, and indicates that in future an effort will be made to find a more appropriate way of working.

Record of Thanks

The Committee expressed its great appreciation to Alan Brash for the service he has given in financial matters during the period of more than two years when the Council

was without a chief finance officer and the Finance Office was being reorganized and re-staffed. He served the Finance Committee by providing information, guiding its deliberations and recording its decisions. While his contributions to the Council extended far beyond his work with the Finance Committee, the Committee is greatly indebted to Alan Brash for his help during this period of special difficulties.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-Committee, including its recommendations.

18. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Executive Committee

It was noted that the next meetings of the Executive Committee would be:

18-22 September, 1978, Finland
29-31 December, 1978, Jamaica
10-14 September, 1979, Geneva
11-15 February, 1980
11-13 August, 1980

B. Central Committee

It was agreed that, following the meeting to be held in Jamaica, 1-11 January, 1979, the Central Committee meet in Geneva, 14-18 August, 1980. The General Secretary reported that Archbishop Sundby had invited the Central Committee to meet in Sweden and suggested that this might be done in 1981.

C. Sixth Assembly

The General Secretary suggested that, in view of the decision to divide the post-Nairobi work into two periods (up to the Central Committee in 1979 and from then until 1981) and the time needed for Assembly preparations, it would not be practicable to hold the Sixth Assembly before 1983. He suggested that it meet in July/August 1983 at the University of British Colombia, Vancouver, Canada. It was agreed to ask the University to reserve accommodation tentatively until the Central Committee in January 1979 had made a decision.

19. CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Executive Committee to the Church of Zürich for its generous hospitality, to the Swiss church representatives for spending so much time with the Committee, and particularly to Pastor Rusterholz for all his help in the practical arrangements.

He also thanked Dr Bührig and the staff of the Boldern centre for their welcome and the special supper they had given on Thursday evening. Mrs Wedel particularly thanked those who had organized the public meeting and the speakers who had done an excellent job of interpreting the WCC.

President Custer, speaking in the name of the other representatives of the Swiss churches, expressed sincere appreciation for being able to be present. He indicated that he would leave a different person from when he arrived. From the daily news reports it was hard to understand the real nature of the World Council of Churches, but now he felt it as a flesh and blood reality. The contacts with the Zürich churches during this meeting would be a force for renewal in the church since they saw the WCC in its wholeness and were now able to share that knowledge with the congregations.

He understood the WCC's problems in regard to finance and the difficulty of securing an international staff at junior level under the present Swiss restrictions. The Swiss churches had already met and planned to make some extra financial contribution to the WCC in view of this situation and they would be glad to cooperate with the Council in discussing various problems with the government authorities. It was their opinion that it would be a tremendous loss to the Swiss churches and to Switzerland if the WCC were obliged to leave Switzerland in order to fulfil its functions.

Dr McCloud expressed appreciation to the interpreters and secretaries. The Moderator thanked all participants for their work. Dr Rossel, on behalf of the Executive Committee, thanked the Moderator, Vice-Moderators and the Moderator of the Finance Sub-Committee for the time they gave to the WCC.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Presidents:	Mrs Justice A.R. Jiagge Most Rev. O. Sundby Dr C. Wedel
Officers:	Most Rev. E.W. Scott (Moderator) His Holiness Karekin II (Vice-Moderator) Miss J. Skuse (Vice-Moderator) Rev. Dr P.A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	Rt Rev. Antonie (Plamadeala) Rev. Dr A. Appel Prof. Dr A.M. Barkat Mr Bena-Silu His Eminence Metropolitan Gregorios Bishop H.H. Harms Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel Rev. Dr Won Yong Kang Archbishop Kirill (Gundayayev) Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall Rev. Dr J.O. McCloud Rev. Dr J. Rossel Mrs D. Sampath Miss P. Webb
Consultants:	His Eminence Metropolitan Emilianos Bishop Makary (Svistoun)
Guests:	Rev. Dr W. Sigrist, President of the Swiss Protestant Church Federation Rev. A. Custer, President of the Council of the Church of Zürich Dekan H. Haupt, Representative of the Church of Zürich Rev. H. Rusterholz, Church of Zürich and responsible for the organization of the Executive Committee meeting in Boldern
Staff:	Dr P. Abrecht Miss B. Bam Rev. J.-J. Bauswein Dr U. Becker Mr P. Bibus Dr A.A. Brash Rev. E. Castro Rev. J. Chipenda Mr T. Davies

	Mr J. Fischer
	Mr D. de Gaspar
	Mr J. Hilke
	Mr C.I. Itty
	Mr W. Kenworthy
	Mr N. Koshy
	Canon Prof. J. Mbiti
	Mr L. Niilus
	Dr K. Raiser
	Mr W. Schot
	Dr B. Sjollema
	Dr L. Vischer
	Miss M. van Vredenburch
	Mr L.C. Weil
Interpreters:	Miss I. Friedeberg
	Miss R. Ginglas
	Mr A. Nalpanis
Minute Writer:	Miss A. Burrows
Administration:	Miss R. Green
	Miss A. Hoppe

APOLOGIES:

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Presidents:	Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
	His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim
	Dr T.B. Simatupang
Members:	His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
	Rev. J. Gatu

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall (Moderator)
Rt Rev. Antonie (Plamadeala)
Prof. Dr A.M. Barkat
Mr Bena-Silu
Bishop H.H. Harms
Archbishop Kirill (Gundayayev)
Rev. Dr J.O. McCloud
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
Miss P. Webb

Sub-Committee on Staffing and Nominations, and Programme

Miss J. Skuse (Moderator, Staffing and Nominations)
His Holiness Karekin II (Moderator, Programme)
Rev. Dr A. Appel
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
Rev. J. Gatu
His Eminence Metropolitan Gregorios
Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
Rev. Dr Won Yong Kang
Mrs D. Sampath

APPENDIX III

REPORT ON THE WCC PROGRAMME ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCs)

I. MANDATE

1. The Central Committee, at its meeting of July-August, 1977, "instructed the Executive Committee to review the proposed programme on TNCs, giving special attention to the broad strategic guidelines" (Minutes of the Central Committee meeting, page 33).

2. The "broad strategic guidelines", embodied in the programme under review (Minutes of the Central Committee meeting, pp. 110-113) have been produced through a process of constant dialogue at various levels. The Staff Task Force met several times to analyze and interpret the orientation given by the Fifth Assembly at Nairobi and to discuss the elements of the programme. These were extensively discussed by the Executive Group of the Programme Unit on Justice and Service (Geneva, December 1976), the Executive Committee of the WCC (Geneva, February 1977) and the joint meeting of the sub-units of the Programme Unit on Justice and Service (Egham, England, April 1977).

3. The Task Force organized two consultations on TNCs. The first, which took place in January 1977 in Cartigny, was a gathering of church-related groups and church representatives already involved in action-reflection programmes related to TNCs. The participants came from underdeveloped, industrialized and socialist countries. The second, which took place in June 1977 in Geneva, comprised a large variety of participants: theologians, social ethicists, church administrators, representatives of TNCs, trade unionists, action group representatives and experts.

4. The programme under review is the outcome of the report of the June consultation, as amended and approved by the Unit II Committee in July-August 1977.

Following are the main programme guidelines:

a. The programme's main responsibility is to help raise the consciousness of the churches, church organizations, ecumenical and other groups as well as individual Christians on the role TNCs have in all parts of the world.

b. The programme should act as a catalyst at local, regional, national and world levels in the field of action and reflection regarding TNCs. This would also imply highlighting the main issues from an ecumenical perspective and discerning possible programmes of action to be carried out by churches at different levels.

c. The programme has a particular responsibility to listen to the experience of the victims of TNCs and to support their programmes.

d. The programme should assist in the channelling of resources in response to requests for support of action by churches and groups.

e. The programme should facilitate the flow of information and analysis regarding TNCs.

f. As a Unit II-wide programme, located in CCPD, the programme has to be seen in the context of the WCC's JPSS thrust. It will have to involve itself in working for more just and participatory structures of society from the angle of economic and technological power and the concentration of such power in the hands of a few. In the quest for justice in history the basic organizing principle is struggle, for the transformation of society; the programme should manifest and foster this principle.

II. INITIATIVES BY CHURCHES, COUNCILS AND CHRISTIAN GROUPS

5. The programme has been built on the experience and existing efforts by churches, councils and Christian groups that have been struggling with the TNC issue in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in industrialized countries. It also draws on the continuing efforts of constituencies of sub-units such as the PCR, CICARWS, CCPD, CMC, CCIA, Church and Society and UIM/CWME (1).

6. Since the Central Committee Meeting of July-August 1977, a number of new initiatives have been taken by churches, councils of churches and church organizations in response to, or in concomitance with the WCC programme on TNCs. Such initiatives include:

a. a consultation by the British Council of Churches;

b. a unanimous resolution passed by the Irish Council of Churches to recognize the need to investigate the influence and exercise of economic and political power by TNCs;

c. the EKD has constituted a group to develop a programme on TNCs;

d. the French Protestant Federation carries a programme of dialogue with "middle staff" of TNCs in its development education efforts;

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(1) "Background Paper by the WCC Staff Task Force on TNCs", June, 1977.

e. in Canada, the National Council of Churches is preparing a three-day seminar on TNCs which will take place in the Spring of 1978;

f. in the USA, the Board of Directors of the US Conference for the WCC is developing a proposal to carry a study on TNCs, in close touch with the NCC activities;

g. in Australia, churches have been questioning the TNCs' activities in uranium mining;

h. the subject of TNCs has been extensively treated in the Second General Assembly of the Caribbean Conference of Churches;

i. the Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia has also given attention to the TNC issue;

j. the Pacific Conference of Churches indicated willingness to start a process of consultations in the region;

k. the Commission on Economics and Politics of the Christian Peace Conference, at its meeting of November 1977 in Zagorsk, conducted a large debate on TNCs, including the WCC programme;

l. action groups relating to the TNC issue are organizing a meeting of the European Economic Community groups to assess their programmes on TNCs;

m. contacts are being kept with the International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations on FAO policies in relation to TNCs and the problems they pose.

n. The International Christian Union of Business Executives (UNIAPAC) is organizing a third Symposium (May 1979), gathering TNC executives and church representatives, including the WCC.

III. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE TNC DEBATE

7. During this period additional awareness has been built around fundamental issues, some of which came out again in a number of the meetings listed in the previous section and in the discussions of the Staff Task Force. Five of the most important areas of debate are identified as follows and deserve serious consideration, further analysis and information gathering.

a. An Integral Approach: It is not possible to take TNCs in isolation, out of the complex socio-economic relations prevalent in the world today. They are instruments, of an economic nature, to implement the social goals of different economic systems. The question may be asked: "If you are critical of TNCs, what is the alternative you offer in their place?". The

alternative has to be envisaged within the frame of reference of a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society (JPSS), in its integrity. That is why the programme on TNCs has to develop pari passu with the JPSS mandate. This would also involve the search for a new understanding of the economic function and the ways in which the requirements of economic justice are met in particular economic systems. The TNC programme can also benefit from the other parts of the JPSS mandate. For instance, in the Consultation on Militarism it was established that "often the support of repressive regimes is motivated by economic concerns, particularly the protection and advancement of the transnational corporations.... This has led in an increasing number of countries to military take-overs, the suppression of all civilian political institutions and the abrogation of basic human rights, all of which tend to be defended, again, in the name of 'national security'".

b. Transnationality of Business as a Unique Phenomenon: The existence of TNCs is to be seen in all socio-economic systems today, though they relate in different ways with each of the systems. In all types of system there are "home" as well as "host" countries. In this sense, the dichotomy between "home" countries and "host" countries is not very helpful, since all countries are "host countries" for TNCs in relation to the autonomous business decisions they make about their own economic existence, in both the short and the long run. It is not, therefore, possible to treat the discussion of TNCs as if it belonged only to the relationships between developed and underdeveloped countries. The TNC programme has to find its own self-identity in relation to the economic phenomena that are associated with the very nature of TNC "transnationality".

c. Power and Accountability: One characteristic of transnational enterprise is that it is composed of units of an oligopolistic nature (e.g. "The Seven Sisters" in the oil business). They are not of the same economic size and do not embrace the same geographical spread. Each TNC has its own autonomy of decision-making, but each is in itself a set of legally different units, according to the nature of its economic specialization, legal domicile or some other factor. Ownership - whether of capital, patents or technology - and co-ordinated decision-making by a centre of power vis-à-vis the single units are the embodiment of the TNC system. Even though the single units are accountable to the legal demands of the country of their location, there is not a single legal authority to which the TNC in its entirety is accountable. In this sense, the nation-states are fragmented units of legal and political power in relation to which TNCs can utilize their knowledge and power to make the most adequate

and profitable decisions for their own maximization of profits and accumulation of capital. It is for this reason also that the value of elaborating codes of conduct for TNCs is questionable. Thus far, only codes of very limited applicability have been drafted. Attempts to elaborate more comprehensive codes have already consumed much time and discussion, without coming to concrete results. In any case, there is now increasing scepticism about the possibility of a substantial consensus about a "binding" code of conduct for TNCs.

d. Technology, Employment and Organized Labour: A fundamental activity of TNCs is research and development (R & D). They generate technologies that are more and more labour-saving. These technologies are inadequate for countries with large working forces and underdeveloped countries are not getting help to solve their employment problems. These technologies also have the effect of generating structural unemployment in developed countries, aggravating the present recession in the world economy. The principles of justice, self-reliance and participation should determine what is appropriate technology, so that a more compatible use of human creativity and opportunity of employment is secured. In this respect, it is important to follow the trade union discussions on TNCs. The international trade unions are struggling to organize international countervailing power to TNCs; the organized labour in industrial countries is protesting against the displacement of industry to cheap labour areas.

e. The Churches' Responsibility: The programme on TNCs has brought to the forefront again the discussion of the social responsibility of the churches at the national and international levels. In part it aims to develop and implement a dialogue and conscientization programme for all those whose lives are affected by TNCs - those who benefit, those who suffer, those who work in management and labour. It is crucial to encourage those who are attempting to combat unacceptable effects of TNCs and to support movements and organizations which emphasize human dignity, self-reliance and social justice. These values should determine the response to the way in which TNCs usually practise "development". The challenge facing the churches - and the WCC also - is to seek dialogue and a proper understanding of the plight of the poor, the oppressed, the exploited and other excluded people. Therefore, any programme carried out by the churches should be aware of the danger of a strategy which would limit the church to offering pastoral care and dialogue with corporate executives alone. Churches can help in the development of a meaningful and non-patronizing dialogue by creating a forum where confrontations and negotiations between the powerless and TNCs can take

place. A more comprehensive type of dialogue, which is essentially an encounter, is more likely to contribute to the search for justice, if and when the churches involved side with those who suffer rather than with those who benefit.

IV. ELEMENTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

8. It is the understanding of the Task Force that it is the Unit II Committee (or its Executive Group) which is the main body to which the programme on TNCs has to be referred, since the Central Committee decided at its meeting of August 1976 that "the programme will be carried out in a coordinated manner by Unit II, with primary responsibility in CCPD and in collaboration with UIM/CWME in Unit I". It is for the Unit II Committee (or its Executive Group) to provide guidance and interpretation of the programme as it evolves in its initial period of five years. It is for this same Committee or Group to make recommendations to the Executive and Central Committees and seek their guidance when necessary. It is the task of the members of the Task Force to inform their own sub-units and respective Commissions of the work of the Task Force, as well as to bring to the Task Force the particular concerns of their sub-units and Commissions.

9. The activities envisaged for 1978 should concentrate on stimulating and collaborating with initiatives taken by churches, councils of churches and Christian groups that are developing programmes in the field of TNCs. Many of them are aiming at exposing the elements of injustice that actions by TNCs, voluntarily or not, are causing in different parts of the world. Deepening the knowledge and understanding of the UN activities on TNCs will be of particular interest in this period.

10. During the course of this year we look forward to an intensification of the important debate opened up by initiatives of the WCC and its constituency. For instance, the Department of Communication is studying the possibility of organizing a small meeting of experts in research of the transnational character of the mass-media system of information that exists today in the world. On appropriate occasions, certain issues mentioned under III will need to be considered at an international ecumenical level through workshops and mini-consultations.

11. The Staff Task Force has examined a few requests for programme assistance that have been received by different sub-units. Two programmes have been assisted and others are under consideration.

The Task Force understands its role in relation to decisions on programme assistance as advisory only. It does not seek to have a budget of its own for that purpose. It is up to the sub-units to provide the necessary funds for programme

assistance out of their resources and through their procedures, according to their particular fields of interest.

12. Some initiatives on publications are under way. "One World" has started a series of articles on TNCs. The first one is based on a lecture by Bishop H. Okullu on "Multinational Corporations: Their Advantages and Disadvantages in Kenya". A booklet on "United States' Churches and the Transnational Corporation: A Bibliographical Sketch" by H. Strharsky, which was originally prepared for the Cartigny Consultation has been revised for the purpose of publication. The June Consultation has given enough material to be published in book form which is now under preparation. A CCPD Dossier is being prepared on information materials about TNCs. These three publications will appear in early Summer 1978.

13. As a continuous flow of information material and books is coming to the WCC, a small specialized documentation and interpretation service is being organized. The materials that are coming range from discussions on Codes of Conduct for TNCs that are being discussed in many intergovernmental bodies, to the penetration of TNCs in most of the underdeveloped world, to problems of protectionism raised by trade unions in the developed world, to investments in labour-saving technologies, aggravating unemployment in both industrialized and underdeveloped countries. This service has been used by a number of other institutions, and this year a number of students from Bossey have made use of the service for their academic work.

APPENDIX IV

THE FUTURE OF SODEPAX

The Central Committee in July-August 1977 adopted the following recommendations which it had received from the Unit II Committee:

"1. That on the basis of a full report on the programme of SODEPAX, an evaluation be prepared by the parent bodies and that the evaluation report be presented for consideration of the WCC Executive Committee meeting in February 1978.

2. To authorize the Executive Committee to take a decision concerning renewal of the SODEPAX mandate and express its hope along with the Unit Committee that the mandate be renewed for another three-year period beginning January 1, 1979."

The Evaluation Process

The evaluation process was carried out in the following way:

The SODEPAX staff prepared an evaluative report of the activities during the 1976-77 period. This report was sent to all members of the Executive Committee (Appendix to Document No. 2) for their consideration.

The report was also sent by the two parent bodies to a number of persons within their constituency in a variety of countries for their assessment. Within the WCC constituency such requests were sent to about 40 persons. They included heads of member churches, staff of regional and national Councils of Churches, Central Committee members and Christian agencies and persons who had certain involvements in SODEPAX programmes.

A summary of the replies received was presented to the SODEPAX Committee at its meeting, January 24-25, 1978.

Attempts were also made to discuss the future of SODEPAX by the staff of Unit II and the WCC as a whole and by the staff of the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace and other concerned Secretariats of the Holy See. Insights emerging from these discussions were also presented to the meeting of the SODEPAX Committee. The main convictions and recommendations resulting from the discussions at the SODEPAX Committee are given below.

Renewal of the Mandate

The SODEPAX Committee which met in Geneva, January 24-25, 1978, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"On the basis of the comments received by the parent bodies, and in view of the discussions in the Committee, we strongly recommend to the parent bodies that the SODEPAX Mandate be renewed for another three years, on the basis of the present Points of Reference 1-5 (see Appendix)."

The Committee adopted the above resolution based on the following considerations:

- The replies received indicated an overwhelming support for the continuation of SODEPAX. The discussions in the Unit and Central Committees, and later discussions at the staff level of the two parent bodies, also indicated a similar conviction.

- The ecumenical significance of SODEPAX as a "symbol" of structured collaboration between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church was emphasized by many of those who took part in the evaluation processes. There is increasing evidence that the very existence of SODEPAX has helped to inspire and legitimize ecumenical collaboration in a number of local and national situations.

- The issues of development, justice and peace continue to be challenging concerns around which ecumenical collaboration is necessary and possible.

The Function

According to the 'Points of Reference', "SODEPAX is a liaison body between the Programme Unit on Justice and Service of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace of the Holy See". A good number of persons who participated in the evaluation processes felt that in the past two years SODEPAX did not give sufficient attention to the liaison function, partly because of its engagement in promoting its own programme "In Search of a New Society". Therefore, the Committee resolved the following:

"Regarding the functions of SODEPAX during the Fourth Mandate, we emphasize the liaison role of SODEPAX, both as a Committee and as a Secretariat. The purpose of this liaison is to enhance the ecumenical dimensions of the programmes of the two parent bodies in the fields of development, justice and peace. This implies that the SODEPAX staff inform themselves of the programmes and issues that the two parent bodies are engaged in, and facilitate the communication of these to each other. Through this process, efforts should be made by SODEPAX to facilitate common reflection and collaboration by the parent bodies on issues of mutual interest, in order to give common witness to their commitment to development, justice and peace."

According to the Committee, the objective of the liaison

function is to bring about a meeting of minds on the basic social issues of our time between the two parent bodies in order to foster the quest for Christian unity and manifest common witness. The task of SODEPAX therefore is to facilitate this exchange, in helping the parent bodies to deepen their common understanding where there is convergence, but also to help them clarify problems where there is divergence.

While liaison between "Rome" and "Geneva" as administrative centres is important, such a function has even greater significance when performed at the level of the church constituencies of the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC member churches themselves. What is intended is to help create a community of ecumenical reflection and action on the questions concerning development, justice and peace on local, national and regional levels. However, in this regard the Committee felt that SODEPAX should play the role of a learner, interpreter and communicator of local experiences and struggles for justice. This function of listening to and communicating local and national experiences is considered far more important and necessary than the promotion of a programme such as "In Search of a New Society". "In this respect," the Committee stated, "the relationship of SODEPAX with such efforts should be in accordance with the principles observed by the two parent bodies in their relationship with the churches at the local and national level".

The evaluation indicated the usefulness of Church Alert as an ecumenical publication. However, in the future it should become more of a newsletter, informing about ecumenical experiences taking place in many parts of the world. For budgetary reasons its periodicity may have to be reduced.

1978/1979 BUDGET COMPARISON

(in Swiss Francs)

Appendix V

	1978 Authorised "Blue Book"	1978 Amended	1979 Preliminary
General Secretariat	851,000	768,612	803,586
New York Office	519,000	451,200	451,200
Conference Secretary	-	61,824	61,320
Off. for Income Coord.	209,800	189,900	187,000
Document. Service	60,000	54,980	56,120
WCC Governing Bodies	422,500	461,000	356,000
Library	423,100	119,880	112,422
Orthodox Consultant	70,800	-	-
UNIT I	5,000	4,375	5,250
Faith and Order	950,150	897,700	850,760
CWME	2,649,700	2,315,330	2,316.470
Dialoque	694,700	616,351	649,700
Church and Society	411,600	395,620	423,540
PTE	2,000,000	1,668,135	1,715,745
UNIT II - Service Prog.	1,184,300	873,140	893,140
CICARWS - Service Prog.	6,368,900	3,680,480	3,819,200
Transfers to others		3,656,630	2,335,700
CICARWS - Refugees	2,192,000	2,115,780	2,226,700
CICARWS - Total	(8,560,900)	(9,452,890)	(7,274,740)
CCIA	1,047,600	1,129,430	988,430
SODEPAX			
PCR	716,000	637,360	669,360
CCPD	5,130,400	4,619,075	4,613,128
CMC	1,915,800	1,788,970	1,830,430
UNIT III	25,000	10,000	10,000
Renewal & Congr.Life	579,100	506,700	506,700
Youth	772,300	535,250	537,506
Women in Church & Soc.	685,000	529,692	445,692
Education	1,076,900	862,823	967,623
Scholarships	563,700	468,722	500,665
Communication	-	(3,535,751)	(3,715,706)
Director's Office	288,000	225,595	255,002
News Office	465,600	441,982	451,984
Editorial Office	404,700	376,510	385,264
Film & Visual Arts	389,000	337,655	346,825
Radio & TV	263,300	245,640	251,535
Publications	1,664,580	1,529,617	1,630,717
Language Service	629,000	378,752	394,379
Ecum.Institute,Bossey	1,923,800		
Bossey - Programme		612,250	739,970
Bossey - Guest House		935,160	929,337
Chief Finance Officer	200,000		
Finance	1,510,800	82,389	50,669
Business Office	143,200	44,720	21,720
Upkeep	1,124,000	32,142	83,772
Mail & Telephone	404,700	30,303	41,243
Cyclostyle	923,000	4,875	21,425
Economat	118,000	20,525	-
Personnel Office	319,200	2,560	10,530
General Reserve	125,000	109,375	109,375
Assembly Reserve	125,000	109,375	109,375
Contingencies	150,000	131,250	131,250
Sub-Total	42,695,230	35,059,884	34,297,759
Internal Transfers	-8,106,155	-4,603,743	-3,178,573
T O T A L	34,589,075	30,456,141	31,119,186